



Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

FBI chief warns violent 'domestic terrorism' growing in U.S.

By ERIC TUCKER and MARY CLARE JALONICK

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — FBI Director Chris Wray bluntly labeled the January riot at the U.S. Capitol as "domestic terrorism" Tuesday and warned of a rapidly growing threat of homegrown violent extremism that law enforcement is scrambling to confront through thousands of investigations. Wray also defended to lawmakers his own agency's handling of an intelligence report that warned of the prospect for violence on Jan. 6.

Continued on Page 2



FBI Director Christopher Wray testifies before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, March 2, 2021. Wray is condemning the Jan. 6 riot at the Capitol as "domestic terrorism."

Associated Press

AQUA GRILL

FREE DESSERT

Not valid with other promotions, coupons or vouchers. Valid with purchase of appetizer and entree. Each coupon is valid for one person per table.

SCAN ME

PLEASE CUT HERE

ARUBA'S PREMIER SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

Reservations +(297) 586-5900
www.aqua-grill.com

DID YOU KNOW THAT FLORA HAS A LOT OF FURNITURE UPSTAIRS?

Avenida Milio Croes 101, Oranjestad, Aruba

Workation?

Get your **Prepaid Wireless Broadband** and stay connected everywhere in Aruba!!!

SETAR

NOW OPEN Fit2fly
COVID-19 Testing Center
BY WALK-IN & APPOINTMENT

Antigen Test: \$50
PCR Test also available



MedCare Clinic
URGENT CARE

Tel: (+297) 280-0630

info@medcare.aw / www.medcare.aw

Locations: The Cove Mall (8AM-10PM) and Medcare at the Mill Resort (8:30AM-12:30PM).

FBI chief warns violent 'domestic terrorism' growing in U.S.

Continued from Front

And he firmly rejected false claims advanced by some Republicans that anti-Trump groups had organized the deadly riot that began when a violent mob stormed the building as Congress was gathering to certify results of the presidential election.

Wray's testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee, his first before Congress since the insurrection, was the latest in a series of hearings centered on the law enforcement response to the Capitol insurrection. Lawmakers pressed him not only about possible intelligence and communication failures ahead of the riot but also about the threat of violence from white supremacists, militias and other extremists that the FBI says it is prioritizing with the same urgency as the menace of international terrorism organizations. "Jan. 6 was not an isolated event. The problem of domestic terrorism has been metastasizing across the country for a long time now and it's not going away anytime soon," Wray told the Senate Judiciary Committee. "At the FBI, we've been sounding the alarm on it for a number of years now."

The violence at the Capitol made clear that a law enforcement agency that remade itself after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks to deal with international terrorism is now laboring to address homegrown violence by white Americans. President Joe Biden's administration has tasked his national intelligence director to work with the FBI and Department of Homeland Security to assess the threat. And in applying the domestic terrorism label to conduct



Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., speaks as FBI Director Christopher Wray testifies before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, March 2, 2021.

inside the Capitol, Wray sought to make clear to senators that he was clear-eyed about the scope and urgency of the threat.

Wray said the number of domestic terrorism investigations has increased from around 1,000 when he became FBI director in 2017 to about 2,000 now. The number of white supremacist arrests has almost tripled, he said.

Many of the senators' questions Tuesday centered on the FBI's handling of a Jan. 5 report from its Norfolk, Virginia, field office that warned of online posts foreshadowing a "war" in Washington the following day. Capitol Police leaders have said they were unaware of that report and had received no intelligence from the FBI that would have led them to expect the sort of violence that besieged them on the 6th. Five people died that day, including a Capitol Police officer and a woman who was shot as she tried to climb through a

smashed window into the House chamber with lawmakers still inside.

Wray said the report was disseminated through the FBI's joint terrorism task force, discussed at a command post in Washington and posted on an internet portal available to other law enforcement agencies.

Though the information was raw, unverified and appeared aspirational in nature, Wray said, it was specific and concerning enough that "the smartest thing to do, the most prudent thing to do, was just push it to the people who needed to get it."

"We did communicate that information in a timely fashion to the Capitol Police and (Metropolitan Police Department) in not one, not two, but three different ways," Wray said, though he added that since the violence that ensued was "not an acceptable result," the FBI was looking into what it could have done differently.

He said he was "reluctant to armchair quarterback anyone else in their jobs," but the FBI was determined to prevent a repeat of Jan. 6.

"We find it personally infuriating any time we are not able, as I said, to bat 1,000. And we're going to keep working to get better," he said.

The sprawling Justice Department investigation into the riot has already produced hundreds of charges, including against members of militia groups and far-right organizations. The crowd in Washington that day ranged from protesters who did not break any laws to a smaller group that arrived determined to commit violence against police and disrupt Congress from its duties, Wray said.

"Some of those people clearly came to Washington, we now know, with the plans and intentions to engage in the worst kind of violence we would consider domestic terrorism," he said.

Asked whether there was evidence that the attack was planned or carried out by antifa — an umbrella term for leftist militants — or by Trump opponents posing as his loyalists, Wray said that there was not. Some on the right have made such false contentions.

Even as the FBI prioritizes its efforts to counter domestic violent extremism, there are challenges confronting law enforcement, including in separating mere chatter from actual threats and in First Amendment protections that give ample leeway to espouse racist or otherwise abhorrent viewpoints.

"The amount of angry, hateful, unspeakable, combative, violent even, rhetoric on social media exceeds what anybody in their worst imagination (thinks) is out there," Wray said.

Wray has kept a notably low profile since the Capitol attack. Though he has briefed lawmakers privately and shared information with local law enforcement, Tuesday's oversight hearing marked his first public appearance before Congress since before November's presidential election. □

Associated Press

**ARUBA
CLEAN**



**IS MORE
DUSHI**

Texas becomes biggest US state to lift COVID-19 mask mandate

By **PAUL J. WEBER**

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas is lifting its mask mandate, Gov. Greg Abbott said Tuesday, making it the largest state to end an order intended to prevent the spread of the coronavirus that has killed more than 42,000 Texans.

Republican Gov. Greg Abbott has faced sustained criticism from his party over the statewide mask mandate, which was imposed eight months ago, as well as other restrictions on businesses that Texas will also scuttle next week. The mask order was only ever lightly enforced, even during the worst outbreaks of the pandemic.

The state is removing limits on the number of diners or customers allowed inside businesses, Abbott said during a news conference at a restaurant in Lubbock. He said the new rules would take effect March 10, unleashing a wave of alarm from big city mayors and leaders along the U.S.-Mexico border, where the virus has been especially rampant.

"Removing statewide mandates does not end personal responsibility," said Abbott, speaking from the crowded dining room where many surrounding him were not wearing masks.

"It's just that now state mandates are no longer needed," he said.



A mask required sign is displayed on the entrance to a business Tuesday, March 2, 2021, in Dallas.

Associated Press

Federal health officials this week urgently warned states to not let their guard down, warning that the pandemic is far from over. Still, governors across the U.S. are easing coronavirus restrictions. Like the rest of the country, Texas has seen the number of cases and deaths plunge. Hospitalizations are at the lowest levels since October, and the seven-day rolling average of positive tests has dropped to about 7,600 cases, down from more than 10,000 in mid-February.

Only California and New York have reported more COVID-19 deaths than Texas.

"Absolutely reckless," California Gov. Gavin New-

som, a Democrat, tweeted in response to Abbott's announcement.

Texas is doing away with the restrictions just ahead of the spring break holiday, which health experts worry could lead to more spread as people travel.

"The fact that things are headed in the right direction doesn't mean we have succeeded in eradicating the risk," said Dr. Lauren Ancel Meyers, a professor of integrative biology and director of the University of Texas COVID-19 Modeling Consortium.

She said the recent deadly winter freeze in Texas that left millions of people without power — forcing families to shelter closely with

others who still had heat — could amplify transmission of the virus in the weeks ahead, although it remains too early to tell. Masks, she said, are one of the most effective strategies to curb the spread.

The top county leader in Houston, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo, called the announcement "wishful thinking" and said spikes in hospitalizations have followed past rollbacks of COVID-19 rules.

"At worst, it is a cynical attempt to distract Texans from the failures of state oversight of our power grid," said Hidalgo, a Democrat.

Early in the pandemic, Abbott stripped local officials

of their power to implement tougher COVID-19 restrictions, but now says counties can impose "mitigation strategies" if virus hospitalizations exceed 15% of all hospital capacity in their region. However, Abbott forbade local officials from imposing penalties for not wearing a face covering. Retailers and other businesses will also still be allowed to impose capacity limits and other restrictions on their own.

Abbott imposed the statewide mask mandate in July during a deadly summer surge. But enforcement was spotty at best, and some sheriffs refused to police the restrictions at all. And as the pandemic dragged on, Abbott ruled out a return to tough COVID-19 rules, arguing that lockdowns do not work.

Politically, the restrictions elevated tensions between Abbott and his own party, with the head of the Texas GOP at one point leading a protest outside the governor's mansion. Meanwhile, mayors in Texas' biggest cities argued that Abbott wasn't doing enough.

Most of the country has lived under mask mandates during the pandemic, with at least 37 states requiring face coverings to some degree. But those orders are increasingly falling by the wayside: North Dakota, Montana and Iowa have also lifted mask orders in recent weeks. □

Fauci presents his personal virus model to Smithsonian

By **ASHRAF KHALIL**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Dr. Anthony Fauci, the face of the U.S. government's pandemic response, has donated his personal 3D model of the COVID-19 virus to the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.

The museum on Tuesday honored Fauci with its Great Americans Medal.

"Dr. Fauci has helped save millions of lives and advanced the treatment and our understanding of infectious and immunologic dis-

eases across more than five decades of public service," said Anthea M. Hartig, the museum's director. "His humanitarianism and dedication truly exemplify what it means to be a Great American."

The model was made with a 3D printer and shows what the Smithsonian's announcement calls "the various components of the SARS-CoV-2 virion (the complete, infectious form of the virus), including the spike protein."

Fauci showed off his new medal in a video call Tues-

day night, calling it "an extraordinary and humbling" honor.

"This has been a terrible year in so many respects," he said. "Decades from now, people will be talking about the experience that we went through."

Fauci, 80, is the director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. After serving as the beleaguered and frequently sidelined face of the Trump administration's COVID response, Fauci was retained as a senior adviser to President Joe Biden. □



Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, listens as President Joe Biden speaks during an event to commemorate the 50 millionth COVID-19 shot, in the South Court Auditorium on the White House campus, Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021, in Washington.

Associated Press

South Carolina Senate adds firing squad to execution methods

By JEFFREY COLLINS

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) —

South Carolina senators Tuesday added a firing squad to the electric chair as alternatives if the state can't kill condemned inmates with lethal injection. The Senate then approved the bill on a key 32-11 vote with several Democrats joining Republicans in the proposal which would allow South Carolina to restart executions after nearly 10 years.

The state can't put anyone to death now because its supply of lethal injection drugs expired and it has not been able to buy any more. Currently, inmates can choose between the electric chair and lethal injection and since the drugs are not available, they pick the method that can't be done. The Senate bill keeps lethal injection if the state has the drugs, but requires prison officials to use the electric chair if it is not. An inmate could choose a firing squad if they prefer.

The House is considering a similar bill without the firing squad option, but it could also consider the Senate version after a procedural vote by senators finalizes the bill later this week.

South Carolina still uses the electric chair first powered up in 1912 after taking over the death penalty from counties, which usually used hanging.



South Carolina Sen. Dick Harpootlian, D-Columbia, speaks in favor of a bill that would add the firing squad to the electric chair and lethal injection as execution methods in the state on Tuesday, March 2, 2021, in Columbia, S.C.

Associated Press

It is just one of nine states that maintains an electric chair. It would become just the fourth state to allow a firing squad with Utah, Oklahoma and Mississippi, according to the Death Penalty Information Center. South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster asked for lawmakers to give him any way to restart executions since a few inmates have exhausted their appeals but their death sentences can't be carried out.

A Republican and a Democrat, both former prosecutors, proposed adding the firing squad.

The Democratic former prosecutor said it is evident

in a Republican dominated state like South Carolina where the GOP gained extra seats in November that the death penalty can't be abolished like Virginia did last month. "The death penalty is going to stay the law here for a while. If it is going to remain, it ought to be humane," said state Sen. Dick Harpootlian, who said hanging is brutal and often leads to decapitation and in electrocution, the condemned "are burned to death." Since the last execution was carried out in May 2011, South Carolina's death row has dropped from about 60 inmates to 37 as of now because of

natural deaths and prisoners winning appeals and being resentenced to life without parole. Prosecutors have sent just three new inmates to death row in the past decade.

The Republican former prosecutor, Sen. Greg Hembree, said Tuesday was not the time to debate whether the death penalty was right or wrong.

But several Democrats said the moral aspect of putting someone to death could not be removed from discussions over the method. They also asked senators how they could justify having a debate over putting people to death this

week when last month they passed a bill outlawing most abortions in South Carolina, which is now tied up in court.

Democratic Sen. Kevin Johnson brought up George Stinney, the youngest person executed in the U.S. in the 20th century. He was 14 when he was sent to the electric chair after a one-day trial in 1944 for killing two white girls. A judge threw out the Black teen's conviction in 2014. Newspaper stories reported that witnesses said the straps to keep him in the electric chair didn't fit around his small frame.

Johnson drives by a memorial to Stinney each time he comes to Columbia from Manning.

"You think it was bad to abort a baby? Think how much worse it is to kill a person who when all is said and done is innocent," Johnson said.

Only one senator in the chamber has seen an execution. Sen. Greg Hembree, who sponsored the firing squad proposal, tried nearly a dozen death penalty cases as a prosecutor and watched one of the men he condemned to death die by lethal injection. "There's nothing pleasant about any of those forms. They are gruesome, they are sad and tragic in a way," Hembree said. "Justice is not always a happy place. But it is justice." □

Police: 13 killed when big rig hits SUV carrying 25 people



In this image from KYMA law enforcement work at the scene of a deadly crash involving a semitruck and an SUV in Holtville, Calif., on Tuesday, March 2, 2021.

Associated Press

By ELLIOT SPAGAT

Associated Press

HOLTVILLE, Calif. (AP) —

Thirteen people were killed

Tuesday when an SUV carrying 25 people and a semitruck collided on a Southern California highway near the U.S.-Mexico border, authorities said.

Twelve people were found dead when first responders reached the highway, which winds through fields in the agricultural southeastern corner of California. Another person died at a hospital, California Highway Patrol Chief Omar Watson said.

Authorities do not yet know if the driver of the 1997 Ford Expedition, who died in the crash, had stopped at a

stop sign before crossing into the path of the big rig around 6:15 a.m., Watson said. The gravel-hauling semitruck hit the left side of the SUV, which appeared to have been pushed off the road that's about 100 miles (160 kilometers) east of San Diego.

Watson described a grisly scene outside Holtville, a rural town about 11 miles (18 kilometers) north of the border with farms that grow vegetables and alfalfa for cattle feed. Officers arrived to find that some people had been ejected from the SUV onto the ground. Some

of the passengers had pulled themselves from the wreckage, and others who were injured were wandering around.

A Ford Expedition typically seats eight people legally. The CHP did not immediately know why so many occupants had been crammed into the SUV.

"Obviously, that vehicle is not meant for that many people," Watson said. "It's unfortunate that that many people were put into that vehicle because there's not enough safety constraints to safely keep those people in that vehicle." □

Dutch bar owners, sex workers protest against virus lockdown

By **PETER DEJONG** and
MIKE CORDER
Associated Press

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — In a scene reminiscent of carefree cafe life before coronavirus lockdown, Peter Bender reached across one of the outdoor tables at De Ooi-evaar bar and placed a cup of coffee and slice of apple pie in front of one of his guests.

But the coffee went cold and the pie remained uneaten at the bar in Rotterdam's historic Delfshaven neighborhood.

With tough coronavirus measures shutting Dutch cafes and restaurants since mid-October, Bender's guests Tuesday were all white inflatable dummies dressed in T-shirts, wigs and large red noses. They were part of a protest that saw an unknown number of cafes across the country symbolically open their terraces amid growing opposition to the lockdown from hard-hit businesses.

"We've waited long enough, we still don't see any perspective from the government," said Bender. "We have a ludicrous action — today dolls are sitting here, next week it will be real guests. We're really



Cafe owner Peter Bender serves a piece of pie on his terrace filled with inflatable dolls at cafe De Ooi-evaar in Delfshaven, Rotterdam, Netherlands, Tuesday, March 2, 2021.

Associated Press

sick of it."

Businesses that accept paying guests in breach of the lockdown risk a 4,000-euro (\$4,800) fine.

Elsewhere, stores in one eastern village opened briefly in the morning and a group of sex workers staged a demonstration and set up a peep show outside parliament in the afternoon. "We also have to pay rent just like any other person who works so why can everybody work except us," said a sex worker from Arnhem who identi-

fied herself as Melissa.

The Dutch government has pledged billions of euros in support to ailing businesses. Finance Minister Wopke Hoekstra sympathized with the bar owners.

"I understand their frustration. I think we all understand it very well," he told reporters in The Hague. "But it's not possible yet. That's the way it is."

The protests come amid growing lockdown fatigue not only in the Netherlands but across the European

Union, where 531,000 people have died in the pandemic and governments are still attempting to rein in new infections while slowly ramping up the pace of vaccinations.

More than 1,000 people gathered in the Hungarian capital, Budapest, on Sunday demanding an end to pandemic restrictions that have left the tourism and hospitality sectors at a standstill for nearly four months. Marches to denounce COVID-19 restrictions also have been taking

place in a scattered form across France and other countries.

The frustration also extends to Africa.

The Pubs, Entertainment and Restaurants Association of Kenya joined other federations Tuesday in protesting the country's nearly year-long nighttime curfew saying as many 160,000 Kenyans in the sector had lost their jobs.

The association's Mike Muthamia said bars and restaurants have been on the receiving end of brutal police enforcement of the COVID-19 lockdown while politicians continue to hold large public gatherings where none of the measures are applied.

The pandemic has taken a brutal economic toll in the Netherlands.

Turnover at the country's accommodation and food services sector shrank by an unprecedented 33.9% in 2020 due to the pandemic and lockdown measures, the national statistics office reported Monday. In the final quarter of the year, as the lockdown was tightened again after a summer of eased measures, cafes saw their turnover decline by 70.4% compared with the previous quarter. □

U.K. holiday firm had 'undesirable guests' list of Irish names

LONDON (AP) — A chain of holiday parks in Britain kept an "undesirable guests" list of Irish last names in an attempt to keep out members of the Irish Traveler community, the U.K. equalities watchdog said Tuesday.

The list kept by Pontins, which was displayed on a staff intranet site, contained about 40 largely Irish names, including Cash, Delaney, Gallagher, Murphy and O'Brien. News of the list was broken by the i newspaper.

Britain's Equality and Human Rights Commission said Pontins was "directly discriminating on the basis of race" by refusing to serve guests of a particular ethnic group.

It said staff refused or canceled bookings made by people with an Irish name or accent.

Irish Travelers are a traditionally nomadic group similar to, but ethnically distinct from, Gypsy or

Roma people. They are a recognized ethnic minority in Britain, where many have lived for generations, and have long suffered discrimination.

Alastair Pringle, the equality commission's executive

director, said it was "hard not to draw comparisons" with "the signs displayed in hotel windows 50 years ago, explicitly barring Irish people and Black people."

"Banning people from services based on their race is discrimination and is unlawful," he said. "To say that such policies are outdated is an understatement."

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's spokesman, Jamie Davies, said Pontins' behavior was "completely unacceptable."

"No one in the U.K. should be discriminated against because of their race or ethnicity," he said.

Founded in the 1940s when foreign vacations

were a rarity, Pontins offers inexpensive package holidays by the seaside, including accommodations, meals and entertainment. At the firm's peak, there were about 30 Pontins sites in the U.K., but only half a dozen are still operating.

The equality commission said Pontins' owner, Britannia Jinky Jersey Ltd., had signed a legally binding agreement to end its discriminatory practices.

Britannia Jinky Jersey Ltd. said in a statement it "has agreed to work together with the Equality and Human Rights Commission to further enhance its staff training and procedures in order to further promote equality throughout its business." □



This Nov. 5, 2020 file photo shows a sign for a Pontins holiday park.

Associated Press

Southeast Asian nations urge halt to violence in Myanmar

By NINIEK KARMINI

Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)

— Southeast Asian foreign ministers urged a halt to violence and the start of talks on a peaceful solution in Myanmar, where the military seized power from an elected government and is escalating its use of mass arrests and deadly force against peaceful protesters. Myanmar's top diplomat briefed other foreign ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations during a video conference Tuesday, according to the meeting's agenda. It was the first meeting of foreign ministers of the 10-member ASEAN since the Feb. 1 coup, when Myanmar's military detained Aung San Suu Kyi and other leaders.

Brunei, which heads ASEAN this year, had proposed that a joint statement be issued after the meeting. But the ministers apparently failed to agree on a declaration, and Brunei issued its own chairman's statement. "We expressed our concern on the situation in Myanmar and called on all parties to refrain from



Anti-coup protesters display pictures of deposed Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi in Yangon, Myanmar, Tuesday, March 2, 2021.

instigating further violence, and for all sides to exercise utmost restraint as well as flexibility. We also called on all parties concerned to seek a peaceful solution, through constructive dialogue," the statement said. It also said the ministers "heard calls" for the release of political prisoners and for the U.N. special

envoy on Myanmar to play a mediating role, without identifying who made those proposals. Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi led efforts to lobby for the ASEAN meeting. She has visited other member countries in recent weeks, including Thailand, where she held three-way talks with Thai counterpart Don

Pramudwinai and Myanmar's new foreign minister, retired army colonel Wunna Maung Lwin, who also traveled to Thailand.

"This situation is worrisome," Marsudi said after Tuesday's meeting, "It is worrisome because an increasing number of civilians have lost their lives and are injured, it's worrisome

because there are still arrests of civilians, it's worrisome because this situation could threaten the transition of the democratic process." She called for a restoration of democracy and a return to normalcy. "This ASEAN meeting was to discuss and find a solution. However, it takes two to tango. The will and goodwill of ASEAN to help will not be implemented if Myanmar does not open its doors to ASEAN," she said. Singapore and Malaysia have also urged Myanmar's military junta to halt the use of violence.

Singapore Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan told Parliament on Monday that his country was "appalled" by Myanmar's use of lethal force against unarmed civilians, calling it "inexcusable." He said prolonged instability in Myanmar would lead to serious consequences for it and the region.

He urged the release of Suu Kyi and other political detainees, saying it was the only way to jumpstart negotiations and return to the path of democratic transition. □

Associated Press

Israeli attorney general slams Netanyahu's vaccine diplomacy

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's attorney general has warned Benjamin Netanyahu that he cannot single-handedly share the country's surplus vaccines with far-flung allies in Africa, Europe and Latin America, and that such an important decision cannot be made by the prime

minister alone.

In an official letter, Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit argues that Netanyahu should have consulted the Cabinet for such a plan. The justice ministry released the letter, addressed to the national security adviser, Meir Ben Shabbat, on Monday. Netanyahu's announce-

ment last week of his decision to share some of Israel's vaccine stockpile had caused an uproar and was later frozen, due to legal questions in Israel, but not before thousands of vaccine doses were shipped to Honduras and reportedly the Czech Republic as well.

Netanyahu has not identified the countries he intended to receive Israeli vaccines, but an Israeli TV station said they included a number of nations supportive of Israel's claims to the contested city of Jerusalem as its capital.

Israel has immunized over half of its population against the coronavirus in one of the world's most successful vaccination drives since late December. Netanyahu is casting the country's vaccination

success as a personal accomplishment as part of his campaigning ahead of the upcoming March 23 elections.

The prime minister secured deals with drug makers Pfizer and Moderna to ensure enough supplies for Israel's 9.3 million people. But his controversial plan has raised questions at home about Netanyahu's decision-making as well as his choice to help nations in Africa and Latin America at a time of global shortages, and when the neighboring Palestinian territories are struggling to secure their own vaccine supplies. Critics say Netanyahu's plan illustrates how the prime minister treats the vaccine as an asset that can be used for diplomatic gain. On Sunday, Israel announced plans to

vaccinate tens of thousands of Palestinians who work inside Israel and its West Bank settlements. Earlier, Israel had shared 2,000 vaccines with the Palestinian Authority to protect front-line medical workers in the West Bank. In his letter, Mandelblit recommends that for "proper and complete government procedure," any decisions concerning the transfer of Israel's vaccines to foreign countries must be made by the relevant authorities.

In light of the importance and diplomatic implications of such a decision, Mandelblit said it was "appropriate that the subject be brought for discussion in the government, Cabinet or in another forum that includes all the relevant ministers in the matter." □



In this Nov. 21, 2019 file photo, Israel's Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit reads a statement for media, in Jerusalem. Associated Press

SUPER
Do it Center.
Bo Familia Pa Semper!

Weekly SPECIALS

SAVE \$0.29



\$1.58
Each

Celery Sleeved

SAVE \$1.14



\$2.85
Per Bag

Potatoes Russet 5lbs

SAVE \$1.71



\$8.29
Each

Hamburger Seasoned

SAVE \$2.17



\$5.71
Each

Quaker Oats Quick Oats & Old Fashioned 42oz

*Offer is valid from 26 Feb - 04 Mar 2021 and while supplies last. All prices are in US dollars (\$)

Nigerian governor says 279 kidnapped schoolgirls are freed

By **LEKAN OYEKANMI and SAM OLUKOYA**

Associated Press

GUSAU, Nigeria (AP) —

Hundreds of Nigerian girls abducted last week from a boarding school in the country's northwest have been released, a state governor said Tuesday, as the West African nation faces a spate of school kidnappings.

The girls, ages 10 and up, dressed in light blue hijabs and barefoot, packed into Zamfara state's Government House conference room. They appeared calm, chatting to one another as they sat in long rows while journalists photographed them. They will receive a medical checkup before being returned to their parents.

Zamfara Gov. Bello Matawalle said that 279 girls had been freed after being abducted from the Government Girls Junior Sec-



Some of the students who were abducted by gunmen from the Government Girls Secondary School, in Jangebe, last week wait for a medical checkup after their release meeting with the state Governor Bello Matawalle, in Gusau, northern Nigeria, Tuesday, March 2, 2021.

Associated Press

ondary School in Jangebe town on Friday. The government last week said 317 had been kidnapped. It

was not clear if the higher number was an error or if some girls were still missing. "Alhamdulillah! (God be

praised!) It gladdens my heart to announce the release of the abducted students," Matawalle said

in a post on Twitter early Tuesday. "I enjoin all well-meaning Nigerians to rejoice with us as our daughters are now safe."

Officials said "bandits" were behind the abduction, referring to the groups of armed men who operate in Zamfara state and kidnap for money or to push for the release of their members from jail.

At the time of the attack, one resident told The Associated Press that the gunmen also attacked a nearby military camp and checkpoint, preventing soldiers from responding to the school.

"We were sleeping at night when suddenly we started hearing gunshots. They were shooting endlessly. We got out of our beds and people said we should run, that they are thieves," she said. Officials ended the interview before the girl could give her name. □

In Peru, sterilization case against Fujimori goes to court

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Former Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori is on trial for his role in a 1990s government program in which many Indigenous women in poor communities say they were forcibly sterilized, and some died or suffered serious injuries because of infection.

The judicial process led by Judge Rafael Martínez began Monday following years of demands by human rights activists as well as numerous obstacles, including prosecutors who shelved investigations of Fujimori in the past.

The new prosecutor in the case, Pablo Espinoza, said sterilizations were carried out in unsanitary conditions and that some wom-

en died from infections. Fujimori has been implicated in the deaths of five women and the injuries of another 1,301 women who were allegedly sterilized against their will.

Fujimori, 82, is serving a 25-year prison sentence for two killings by the military during his 1990-2000 administration.

He has also been convicted of corruption and faces another trial for the murder of six farmers by a military death squad during his administration.

Fujimori said through his lawyers that he should not be tried in the sterilization case because, when he was extradited from Chile in 2007, it was not included in the group of crimes for

which he was going to be judged.

Some other former members of Fujimori's government are also accused in the sterilization case.

As president, Fujimori announced at a congress in China in 1995 that his government would undertake a program to help poor Peruvian women decide the number of children they wanted to have. Later, there were growing complaints from women in poor communities in the Andes who said they had been sterilized without their knowledge.

Officials of Fujimori's government claimed any excesses were the fault of overzealous local medical authorities. But the pro-



In this Oct. 25, 2013 file photo, jailed former President Alberto Fujimori attends his hearing at a police base on the outskirts of Lima, Peru.

Associated Press

gram was so controversial that the U.S. Congress cut aid payments to Peru that had been used to fund the program. Fujimori had boasted that

the sterilization program dropped Peru's birth rate from 3.7 children per woman in 1990 to 2.7 children a decade later. □

The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba where lifetime memories are created with every tailored event

“I, Lady of The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba, sell the dream and our Ladies and Gentlemen, make it a reality”



PALM BEACH — Gilliany Oduber, the Catering Sales Manager of The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba, celebrates romance, creates lifetime memories, connections and so much more. You may rest assured to hold an incredible event that makes an everlasting impression on your loved one(s). Gilliany and the Ladies and Gentlemen, simply, makes that difference with all the details and the WOW factor. “I truly enjoy celebratory events, it’s my ‘zjeito’ meaning ‘my forte’ in the local language Papiamentu. Let us celebrate love with you.

Oduber is a very easy to talk to, you’ll feel comfortable in a second, which is important when organizing a lifetime event. “At The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba we make your vision come to life, making your dream event a reality. Now, more than ever we need emotional connection. People are eager to get together, share their relationships and celebrate it.” Notable is that there is more connection between people during the events, mainly because they have been waiting to travel. Before it was perhaps more about having fun and a good time she explains, now in addition, the focus is also on having conver-



sations with the closest people around you and intensely enjoying each other’s company. Needless to say, The Ritz-Carlton Aruba has its measures in place aside from the implemented governmental protocols to safely host events. “We offer a virtual experience as well, making the experience complete. We go as far as necessary to make the event feasible for our guests.

A top-notch experience

Genuine commitment is what sets Gilliany Oduber and her team apart. “We sell your event as an experience, to truly enjoy a luxury state-of-being and creating a lifetime memory. You need to feel that the Ladies and Gentlemen of the Ritz-Carlton Aruba are taking care of you, and even if you are abroad, that is exactly

what we do.” She ensures to remain very much in contact with her clients, providing the feeling that they are always there to assist. “You feel you are truly taken care of and that sets us most apart of being a luxury resort. That extra mile and those details makes us become partners.” Product and service excellence is a given at The Ritz-Carlton Aruba as automatically you will receive the very best quality, outstanding vendors and top-notch food. “We have our own pastry team creating stunning wedding cakes, the culinary experience is the best you can get.” Add to that the most stunning Caribbean sunsets, and being the last resort on the entire hotel strip creates an atmosphere of exclusivity.

Eternity Bridge

The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba offers an iconic location, the legendary Eternity Bridge. It cannot be compared to any other venue on island. A private setting, nestled in the north side of the resort, this stunning, white-sandy beach with all the shades of Caribbean blue as the backdrop. “This is truly the last piece of beach of the entire hotel strip. A unique spot, embracing the local environment because the Fishermen’s Huts are just a stone throw away,” adds Oduber. Other dream locations the resort has to offer are the Events Beach which is a tropical dream come true, the Events Lawn where the perfectly, manicured-lawn lifts your spirit or the Ballroom, an elegant venue in shades of gold and cerulean blue. There is a world on possibilities and we strongly suggest you to check www.ritzcarlton.com/aruba for all the details. □



The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba

L. G. Smith Boulevard #107

Palm Beach, Aruba

T: (297) 527-2222

<http://www.ritzcarlton.com/en/hotels/caribbean/aruba>

MONDAY MADNESS AND BINGO ARE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED

WILDER
Wednesday

— WIN A SHARE OF UP TO —

\$1,000 in
Free Slot Play

Every Wednesday | 10am to 10:30pm

Earn 25 points and swipe at any kiosk to play.

Win \$20 to \$100 in Free Slot Play.

Play up to five times each Wednesday.

THE SHOPS
AT ALHAMBRA CASINOOffering a wide variety of Retail & Dining Outlets,
Salon & Spa Services, Souvenirs and more.Dunkin Donuts | Baskin Robbins
Hungry Piranha | Aruba Aloe
Shalom Body & Soul SpaComing Soon: The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood
Shalom Hair & Nails Bar, MAGNET — Perfume, Jewelry & CosmeticsAlhambra
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 9am to 11pm | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 583.5000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.

Monuments of Aruba



ORANJESTAD — Since 1996, 'Stichting Monumentenfonds Aruba' (Monuments Fund Aruba) has primarily been involved in the funding of restoration and maintenance of protected monuments, and has been the financial institution in the field of heritage con-

servation. The fund owns 15 monuments, out of the 36 protected monuments in the island, but there are over 300 more monuments on the list to be protected. The Arends Building is one of the protected monuments.

The Arends Building is one of the prettiest Caribbean style houses in Oranjestad and it is located on the Wilhelminastraat. This house is built by the late doctor Jacobo Eloy Maria Arends. The architecture is implemented by the Aruban architect Chibi Wever. Wever was assisted by the mason Jan Christiaans and Nicolaas Picus. The house has remarkable influences of the Latin American neo-baroc.

The members of the Arends family had been living in Aruba since the middle of the 18th century, and as very successful businessmen they were considered to be leading residents on the island. Dr. Eloy Arends was married to Maria Lacle. During their engage-



ment time in 1922, the construction of the Arends residence started, which was completed in 1925. Tradition in Aruba at the time stipulated that on the day of his marriage, a man had to present to his wife a new and fully furnished house. Dr. Eloy Arends passed away in 1960, and his son, dentist Jesus Eloy Arends took up the ownership of the house. He had his dentist practice and laboratory there. In 1986 the estate

was sold to the government of Aruba by Jesus Eloy Arends as he couldn't afford the maintenance of the building. In 1997 the building was restored. It currently serves as City Hall where weddings are performed.

For more information check out their Facebook page stichting monumentenfonds aruba and the website <http://www.monumentenfondsaruba.com>. □

Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received an extraordinary story from William & Aqila. They wrote:

"This is truly one happy island. Wether you are looking for Peace or Parties, Aruba has it all!! Still romantic after 45 years of marriage. We Love Aruba." □



We'd Love to Take you Home!

ORANJESTAD — Sgt. Pepper's Friends is a non-profit animal rescue organization founded and located in Aruba. Their dogs and cats are available for adoption in the United States, Canada, Aruba, the Netherlands and Sweden as of now. Every country they add to the list requires careful research, but they hope open up to families in other countries in the future as well. The organization loves our beautiful island. However, the number of neglected, homeless, abandoned, sick and hungry dogs and cats wandering the streets is truly disturbing. Through donations and the hard work of their volunteers and their adoptive families, **Sgt. Pepper's Friends are able to rescue many animals in need.**

Where it all began...

Almost six years ago, it all started when a beloved and special dog passed away much too early. Honoring this special dog, Sgt. Pepper's Friends foundation was born. From only a handful of people starting up a new foundation, we've grown into a well-known organization with an amazing group of (international) volunteers and team of foster families, in only three years. We have the biggest social media following in Aruba and have been able to make an impact on the lives of many animals on the island. For the future we hope to be able to contribute to educating



our local community and create a much bigger impact.

Ways to Help - Help Us Help Them

Did you know there are many ways how you and your friends or family can help us make a change in the lives of the animals in Aruba?

1 **Donate** As we are a non-profit organization relying solely on donations, any financial support towards the (veterinary) care of our animals is very welcome.

2 **Bring supplies or Send Supplies** We can always use small supplies for our rescue dogs and cats. From collars to toys and anti-flea & tick products, to soft airline approved carriers and travel crates, all supplies are very much needed here. When visiting Aruba, you can also help us help them by buying dog or cat food here locally and do-



nate that to our rescues.

3 **Transport**

As most of our rescues are adopted to the USA and Canada, we are always looking for flight volunteers to help bring our rescues home. This process is very easy and rewarding! We arrange everything, from booking and paying the rescue on your flight, to meeting you at the airport with the dog or cat and its papers, supplies and connect you with the adoptive family who will be waiting for you at baggage claim upon arrival. We promise you that transporting is a very rewarding experience and one of the most valuable ways to make a difference in the life of one of our rescue animals!

4 **Volunteer**

Should you want to make a bigger difference, we take fulltime volunteers for periods of a minimum of 4 weeks up until 3 months. We also have shorter part time volunteering options for people vacationing here, including dog walking with our rescue dogs and helping with feeding/cleaning/caring duties of the puppies and cats at our new property.

5 **Adopt**

Are you looking to expand your family with a furry friend? We have many puppies, kittens, cats and dogs looking for homes.

6 **Spread the Word**

Not planning on visiting Aruba any time soon? That's ok! Sharing information about this organization or about adoptable animals is a huge way to support the mission. The more animals adopted and transported to forever homes, the

more we can rescue. If you know anyone visiting Aruba be sure to pass along information about transporting or connect them with us on social media.

Trap, Neuter, Release (TNR) of strays is already a difficult and emotional task to begin with, but when it turns out the ones you caught clearly haven't been on the street for so long, are used to people, friendly and potentially adoptable, even the most die hard volunteer becomes a softy. With thousands of stray cats and dogs on the island, we believe, together with the @crijojotrappersaruba that spay and neuter of strays alongside general education is the only way to reduce the numbers for the future. Many current strays were simply born at people's houses who didn't spay their own dog or cat....

We need all the help we can get to help us with a spay, a nexgard spectra against fleas and ticks, or a bag of food or tray of cans. All basics needed for trapping and spay and neuter. In the last 2 days together with @pudgethepit's followers, we raised funds to help 27 female dogs, 1 male dog, 2 female cats and 3 male cats, how amazing is that? We would love to double it, so the trappers are able to continue another month.

Should you be ready to "Fall in Love" with your next furry family member, please go to our website www.sgtpeppersfriends.com or facebook page Sgt Pepper's Friends for all our available animals. We have so many (older) puppies, (young) adults, kittens and cats waiting for forever homes, maybe one of them is the perfect match for you. ☐





In this April 6, 2020 file photo, a customer wearing a mask carries his purchases as he leaves a Target store during the coronavirus pandemic, in the Brooklyn borough of New York.

Associated Press

Target powers through a pandemic; 2020 sales growth explodes

By **ANNE D'INNOCENZIO**
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Target will plow \$4 billion into its business each year for the next several years to redo its stores and add new ones as well as speed up its delivery network, as the discounter aims to keep up with increasingly demanding shoppers shaped by the pandemic.

As part of the investments, announced Tuesday, Target will accelerate the pace of building small-format stores, with plans to add 30 to 40 new stores this year, up from 29 last year. It also will step up the pace of its store remodel program. It will remodel 150 stores this year, and then push that number to 200 remodels a year later.

But safety will remain top of mind even as the threat of COVID-19 should diminish with the vaccine rollout. The Minneapolis retailer says it will implement more contactless features from its restrooms to its checkouts and adding distance between merchandise and at the checkout lanes. The company is also testing a "merchandise sortation hub" in Minneapolis and will build five more this year. The hubs will help sort packages and speed up deliveries to customers ordering more online.

The capital investment is up

50% from the previous year. The moves come as Target extended its sales streak through the holiday quarter and sales grew by more than \$15 billion. That exceeded the company's annual sales growth over the past 11 years combined.

With the habits of millions altered because of the spread of COVID-19, online sales last year surged by almost \$10 billion and Target made it increasingly easy to shop.

Fourth-quarter profits soared 66% and sales jumped 21%, both topping Wall Street expectations.

Sales at stores opened at least a year rose 6.9% compared with the same period last year. Online sales soared 118%. Customer traffic in stores rose 3.7%, and average dollars spent rose 15%. Target picked up \$9 billion in market share from rivals in fiscal 2020.

Big-box stores including Home Depot, Lowe's and Walmart all had huge fourth quarters with Americans still consolidating shopping trips.

Like all big-box stores, Target was allowed to stay open during the early onset of the pandemic last year, while department stores and mall-based retailers were forced to temporarily close because they were considered non-essential.

That increased the dominance of Target and other discounters.

Target, which had already been expanding its delivery services before the pandemic, pushed even harder in that area. Same-day services such as picking up orders inside the store or at curbside, soared 212%, led by drive-up service, which increased more than 500%. And its omnipresent store locations have been an advantage. More than 95% of Target's fourth-quarter sales were fulfilled by its own stores.

Target says that shoppers who use those services are spending more. First-time users of Target's drive-up service spent 30% more on average, the company said.

"We placed the physical store more firmly at the center of our omni-channel platform, and we created a durable sustainable and scalable business model that puts Target on a road of our own," Target CEO Brian Cornell said during its annual analysts' meeting.

Target's push starting in 2016 to build its own store brands, including Cat & Jack and Goodfellow & Co., have also pulled in shoppers. Ten of its brands each generate \$1 billion or more, and four of those have crossed the \$2 billion, the company said. □



In this May 6, 2020, file photo, a Hertz car rental is closed during the coronavirus pandemic in Paramus, N.J.

Associated Press

Hertz eyes bankruptcy exit through \$4.2 billion stake sale

By **MICHELLE CHAPMAN**
AP Business Writer

In a deal to jettison itself from under bankruptcy protection, Hertz said Tuesday that it may sell a controlling stake in the company to two investment firms for \$4.2 billion.

Knighthood Capital Management and Certares Opportunities will have the chance to buy the entire reorganized car rental company, but no less than a majority of its shares, Hertz Global Holdings Inc. said. Hertz was among the first major corporations to be felled by the pandemic last year as infections surged and shut down travel on a global scale for both companies and vacationers.

Hertz filed for bankruptcy protection in May 2020. Sales growth went into negative territory almost immediately, but the 100-year-old company was already experiencing some turmoil. When it entered bankruptcy protection, Hertz named its fourth chief executive in six years.

However, with the rollout of a suite of vaccines for the coronavirus, pent up wanderlust is expected to explode. Investors are pouring money into almost any company that caters to travelers. Share of major airlines are up between 20% and 40% this year. Cruise, lines, hotels and resorts are getting similar interest.

In this atmosphere, Certares and Knighthood recently formed the CK Opportunities Fund, which concentrates on investments in travel and leisure.

Hertz, based in Estero, Florida, said the proposed investment, combined with a new \$1 billion first-lien financing, a new \$1.5 billion revolving credit facility, and a new asset-backed securitization facility to finance its U.S. vehicle fleet, will provide the funding needed for the company to complete its restructuring and emerge from Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in early to mid summer.

The proposed plan still needs court approval. A hearing is set for April 16. □

AI panel urges U.S. to boost tech skills amid China's rise

By **MATT O'BRIEN**
AP Technology Writer

An artificial intelligence commission led by former Google CEO Eric Schmidt is urging the U.S. to boost its AI skills to counter China, including by pursuing "AI-enabled" weapons — something that Google itself has shied away from on ethical grounds.

Schmidt and current executives from Google, Microsoft, Oracle and Amazon are among the 15 members of the National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence, which released its final report to Congress on Monday.

"To win in AI we need more money, more talent, stronger leadership," Schmidt said Monday.

The report says that machines that can "perceive, decide, and act more quickly" than humans and with more accuracy are going to be deployed for military purposes — with or without the involvement of the U.S. and other democracies. It warns against unchecked use of autonomous weapons but expresses opposition to a global ban. "We have to develop technology that preserves our Western values, but we have to be prepared for a world in which not everyone is doing that," said Andrew Moore, a commissioner and the head of Google Cloud AI.

The group has the ear of top lawmakers from both parties, but has attracted criticism for including many members who work for tech companies with big government contracts, and who thus have a lot at stake in federal rules on emerging technology.

The report calls for a "White House-led strategy" to defend against AI-related threats, to set standards on how intelligent machines can be used responsibly and to boost U.S. research and development to maintain the nation's technological advantage over China.

"We believe we are one or two years ahead of China, not five or 10," Schmidt told the Senate Armed Services Committee last week. He clarified Monday that that he was expressing his personal opinions and not necessarily those of the commission.

It's not yet clear whether President Joe Biden's administration is on board with the commission's approach. It's still awaiting confirmation of a new director for the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, which Biden has elevated to a Cabinet-level position.

"AI policy tends to be very bipartisan," said Michael Kratsios, who was U.S. chief technology officer under President Donald Trump



Dr. Eric E. Schmidt, co-founder of Schmidt Futures, speaks on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2021, during a hearing on emerging technologies and their impact on national security.
Associated Press

and led a push to pump more resources into AI development across federal agencies. The greatest imperative, he said, is that "the next great AI technologies are developed in the West."

One big difference between the two administrations is likely to be the approach to building AI talent. The commission recommends a more open immigration policy than what Trump favored.

Congress formed the AI panel in 2018 and appointed 12 of its 15 commissioners, with the others picked by Trump's Defense and Commerce secretaries. A judge later compelled the commission to make its meetings and records more accessible to the public after a civil liberties group, the Electronic Privacy Information Center, challenged its secrecy.

It's been led by Schmidt, who was Google's CEO and later the executive chairman of its parent company Alphabet. He previously helped lead the Defense Innovation Board, which advises the Pentagon on new technology. That brought some conflict in 2018 when Google backed out of Project Maven, a U.S. military initiative using AI-based computer vision technology to ana-

lyze drone footage in conflict zones. The company, responding to internal activism from employees, also pledged not to use AI in any weapons-related applications.

"I did not agree with the Google decisions on Maven," Schmidt told senators last week, calling it an "aberration" compared to the tech industry as a whole, where he says there are plenty of companies that want to work with the military. He said AI and machine vision systems are particularly good at "watching for things," which is something the military spends a lot of time doing.

The commission also includes executives like Safra Catz, the CEO of software giant Oracle, and Amazon's incoming CEO, Andy Jassy, who currently runs its cloud computing division, as well as top AI experts at Microsoft and Google. All four companies have competed against each other for federal cloud computing contracts. The representatives from Microsoft and Google joined other members in approving the final report Monday, but abstained from the section relating to government partnerships with the private sector.

Excluding human rights

groups and rank-and-file tech experts from the commission has led the group to more easily frame this policy issue as a "democracy versus authoritarianism" competition against China while skirting more difficult topics, like the use of AI technologies on the U.S.-Mexico border, said Jack Poulson, a former Google researcher who now directs industry watchdog Tech Inquiry.

"The nominal reason to have these tech CEOs on these committees is they're experts in the technology. But they're also, subject to shareholder requirements, acting in the interests of their companies," Poulson said. "They don't want significant regulation or anti-trust enforcement."

The government-industry partnership may be important for the U.S. and its allies to help set standards for the responsible use of AI, said Megan Lamberth, a research associate at the Center for a New American Security.

"AI has the potential to really transform not only how militaries fight wars, but how economies operate and how societies and people interact with each other," Lamberth said. "If there's a gap in leadership, another country is going to fill that void." □

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			4	6				
			2		7			
9	7	1	3			4		
3							2	
8				4				9
5							8	
4	6	9	7			3		
			6		8			
			5	9				

©2021 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Difficulty Level ★★★

3/03

Classifieds

Le Vent Condo

3 BR 2 Bath full furnish
ground floor across the eagle
beach
\$650 K
Call: (297) 630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Tierra Del Sol Golf

2 BR, 2 1/2 bath
full furnish Ocean View
with garage
Price : \$450 K
Call: (297) 630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Gold Coast

2 BR , 2Bath
full furnish
Price :\$270K
Call: (297) 630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Aruba Divi Phoenix

1BR WK 11 Room # 731
32 weeks remain
Price :\$14 K
Call: (297) 630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK 8 Room #4117
26 weeks remain \$9000
1 BR WK # 9 Room # 4117
18 weeks remain \$8000
Call : (297) 630-1307

Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK # 12 and 13
room # 2160 Ground floor
32/33 weeks remain
\$9K each week
Call: (297) 630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Links Golf

Studio WK # 5,6,7,8,9
room # 2350
36 weeks remain each
Price \$ 9K each
Call: (297) 630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village

2BR WK # 13 Room # 3512
Building C elevator
28 weeks remain NON Manda-
tory
Expiration Date :2036
Price :\$15K
Call: (297) 630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Dutch Village

1 BR WK # 8 Room # 14
6 weeks remain \$5K
1 BR WK # 9 Room # 14
15 weeks remain \$7 K
Call: (297) 630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Dutch Village

Studio WK # 7 Room # 33
11 weeks remain \$6K
Studio WK # 8 Room # 33
Call: (297) 630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Dutch Village

1 BR WK # 7/8 Room # 89
8 and 6 weeks remain 6 K each
1 BR WK # 8 room # 94
20 weeks remain \$ 8K
Call : (297) 630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Dutch Village

Studio WK # 10 Room # 123
16 Full accelerated EXP:2026
1 BR WK # 10 Room #14
10 Full accelerated EXP:2028
Price :\$ 6 K each
Call: (297) 630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Marriott Surf Club

Platinum Season
2 BR Garden View \$15 K
2 BR Ocean View \$16 K
2 BR Ocean Side \$17 K
2 BR Ocean Front \$ 26 K
3 BR Ocean View \$ 30 K
Call: (297) 630-1307

Marriott Ocean Club

Platinum Season
1 BR Ocean View \$10 K
1 BR Ocean Front \$17 K
2 BR Ocean View \$ 18 K
2 BR Ocean Front \$26 K
Call : (297) 630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

For All Time Share Owners on the Islands of Aruba

Halley Time Travel Aruba
* Free Listings
*Free Appraisal
*Transfer All Legal documents
* 36 Years Experience
Call : (297) 630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

213846



Time Share Resales + Realty

Own or Rent a piece of the Rock
For up to 70 % Off stay @5 Star Resort
* All inventory available
Visit our website :
www.halleytimetravelaruba.com
For more info call: (297) 630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
also visit(new):
www.halleyadventures.com



Marriott Aruba Surf Club

PLATINUM Season
2B Oceanfront \$26k
Oceanside \$16.500
Oceanview \$15.500
3BEDROOM \$28k
*WK. 51 GV \$39k
*WK. 52 OV \$49k
* Weeks 7 and 14-all views

GOLD Season

2B Oceanfront \$14k
2B Oceanside \$8k
GV \$6k OV \$7k
3BEDROOM \$13k

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

PLATINUM Season
2 Bed OV \$16500
2B OF \$26k
1B OV \$9k
** Destination points \$9 per point

GOLD Season

2B Oceanfront \$14k
2B OV \$9k
1 Bed \$4k
1B OF \$9k

La Cabana Beach Resort

2BD - Weeks 30-33 Unit#322BC and
Unit 41 2BC \$6500 each week

Divi Aruba Phoenix

Week 27 and week 29
Penthouse 2 Bed 3 Bath
Other weeks also available

Divi Aruba Phoenix

2 bedroom
weeks 10 and 11 ground floor
Week 10 expires 2038
Week 11 expires 2037

We Need Sellers!!!

Costa Linda & Playa Linda
& All Divi Weeks

We are the #1 Rental Timeshare agent for Aruba!

We also RENT Aruba weeks for
owners, Contact us to BUY,
SELL or RENT any timeshare
property.

Contact:

michelle@conciergerealty.com
888-888-2204 Ext 109

Website:
www.conciergerealty.com
Broker: Michelle Donato
www.facebook.com/groups/MarriottArubaSurf/
www.facebook.com/groups/MarriottArubaOcean

PARADISE BEACH

RENT SALE

P/O Front WKS 1 & 4 1 bedr,
WKS 1,8,9,31,32,52 2 bedr.

CASA DEL MAR

WKS 27,28 2 bedr
Call +941-343-1088 USA

213821

Casa del Mar 2BR/2B

Week 2/1113 (16k);
Week 5/1315 (18k);
Week 5&6/1521 (20k/Wk.);
Week 7&8/1408 (18k/Wk.);
Week 8/1113; 8/1409 (17k/Wk.);
Week 9/1218 (15k);
Week 10/1207 (15k);
Week 11/1419 (13k); and,
Weeks 13-15 also available!
CDMOwner@gmail.com
U.S. (860)992-3890

213823



Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

Editor in Chief

Linda Reijnders
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

Editors

Richard Brooks

Sales

Linda Reijnders
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto
Pilar Flores

Columnists

Anthony Croes
Joris Zantvoort
Thais Franken

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
f @arubatoday



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Eagle (Noord) Tel. 586 4606

San Nicolas:

San Lucas Tel. 584 5119

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850

Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

Walk-In Doctor's Clinic

+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118

ROCO PLAZA

FLEAMARKET #ONE

SUNDAY 7 MARCH

Antiqueshop 9 -1 pm

LOTS OF DISCOUNTS

Open Mon-Frid 9.30- 1

Every SATURDAY 9 - 1.30

FERIA Garage/Charity Market

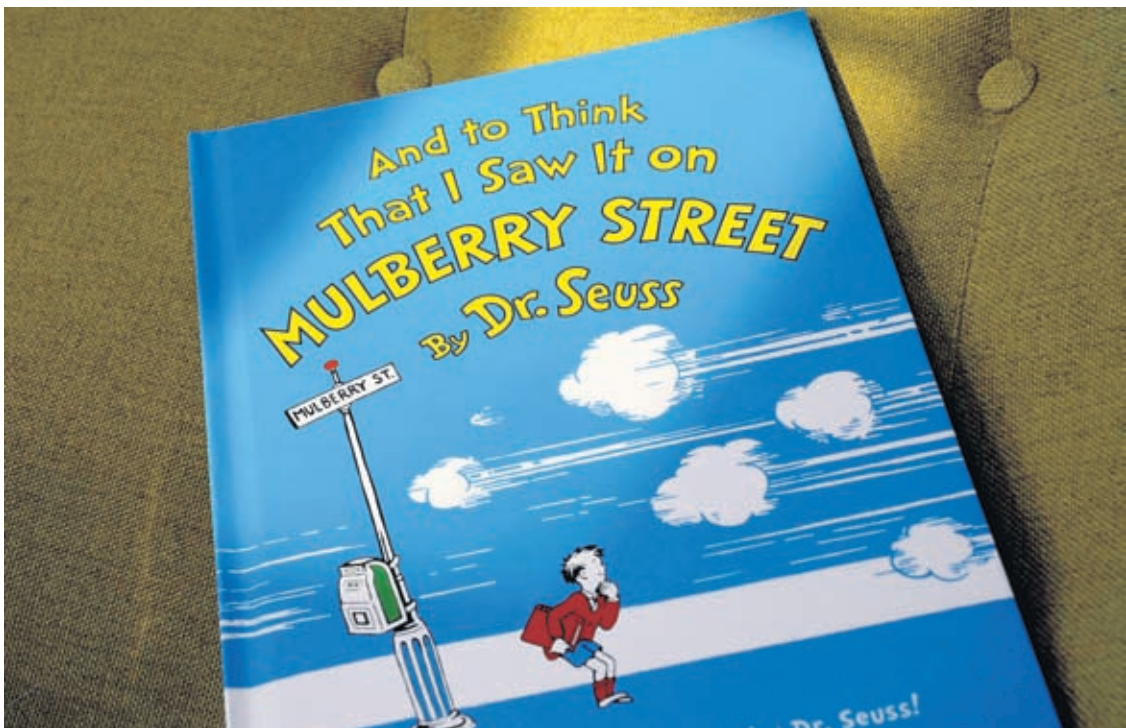
Vegetables Fruits Fish

Plants etc..INFO 741-5640

6 Dr. Seuss books won't be published for racist images

By MARK PRATT
Associated Press
BOSTON (AP) — Six Dr. Seuss books — including “And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street” and “If I Ran the Zoo” — will stop being published because of racist and insensitive imagery, the business that preserves and protects the author’s legacy said Tuesday.
“These books portray people in ways that are hurtful and wrong,” Dr. Seuss Enterprises told The Associated Press in a statement that coincided with the late author and illustrator’s birthday. “Ceasing sales of these books is only part of our commitment and our broader plan to ensure Dr. Seuss Enterprises’ catalog represents and supports all communities and families,” it said.

The other books affected are “McElligot’s Pool,” “On Beyond Zebra!,” “Scrambled Eggs Super!,” and “The Cat’s Quizzer.”
The decision to cease publication and sales of the books was made last year after months of discussion, the company, which was founded by Seuss’ family, told AP.
“Dr. Seuss Enterprises listened and took feedback from our audiences including teachers, academics and specialists in the field as part of our review process. We then worked with a panel of experts, including educators, to review our catalog of titles,” it said. In “And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street,” an Asian person is portrayed



A copy of the book “And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street,” by Dr. Seuss, rests in a chair, Monday, March 1, 2021, in Walpole, Mass.

wearing a conical hat, holding chopsticks, and eating from a bowl. “If I Ran the Zoo” includes a drawing of two bare-footed African men wearing what appear to be grass skirts with their hair tied above their heads.
Books by Dr. Seuss — who was born Theodor Seuss Geisel in Springfield, Massachusetts, on March 2, 1904 — have been translated into dozens of languages as well as in braille and are sold in more than 100 countries. He died in 1991.
He remains popular, earning an estimated \$33 million before taxes in 2020, up from just \$9.5 million five years ago, the company said. Forbes listed him No. 2 on its highest-paid dead celebrities of 2020, behind only the late pop star Mi-

chael Jackson.
Random House Children Books, Dr. Seuss’ publisher, issued a brief statement Tuesday: “We respect the decision of Dr. Seuss Enterprises (DSE) and the work of the panel that reviewed this content last year, and their recommendation.”
As adored as Dr. Seuss is by millions around the world for the positive values in many of his works, including environmentalism and tolerance, there has been increasing criticism in recent years over the way Blacks, Asians and others are drawn in some of his most beloved children’s books, as well as in his earlier advertising and propaganda illustrations.
The National Education Association, which founded Read Across America Day

in 1998 and deliberately aligned it with Geisel’s birthday, has for several years deemphasized Seuss and encouraged a more diverse reading list for children.
School districts across the country have also moved away from Dr. Seuss, prompting Loudoun County, Virginia, schools just outside Washington, D.C., to douse rumors last month that they were banning the books entirely.
“Research in recent years has revealed strong racial undertones in many books written/illustrated by Dr. Seuss,” the school district said in a statement.
In 2017, a school librarian in Cambridge, Massachusetts, criticized a gift of 10 Seuss books from first lady Melania Trump, say-

ing many of his works were “steeped in racist propaganda, caricatures, and harmful stereotypes.”
In 2018, a Dr. Seuss museum in his hometown of Springfield removed a mural that included an Asian stereotype. “The Cat in the Hat,” one of Seuss’ most popular books, has received criticism, too, but will continue to be published for now.
Dr. Seuss Enterprises, however, said it is “committed to listening and learning and will continue to review our entire portfolio.”
The move to cease publication of the books drew immediate reaction on social media from those who called it another example of “cancel culture.”
“We’ve now got foundations book burning the authors to whom they are dedicated. Well done, everyone,” conservative commentator and author Ben Shapiro tweeted.
Others approved of the decision.
“The books we share with our children matter. Books shape their world view and tell them how to relate to the people, places, and ideas around them. As grown-ups, we have to examine the worldview we are creating for our children, including carefully re-examining our favorites,” Rebekah Fitzsimmons, an assistant teaching professor at Carnegie Mellon University, tweeted.
Numerous other popular children’s series have been criticized in recent years for alleged racism. □

CBS to air Emmy Awards on Sept. 19; no host yet



A video monitor displays the stage for Sunday’s 71st Primetime Emmy Awards during Press Preview Day in Los Angeles on Sept. 19, 2019.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Emmy Awards will be held on Sept. 19 and air live on CBS. The network and the Television Academy announced Tuesday that the 73rd annual ceremony will stream live and on demand on Paramount+, the streaming service that launches March 4.
The host, producers and location for the Emmys will be announced later. Since 2008, the show has been held at Microsoft Theater in

downtown Los Angeles.
Last year’s show on ABC was hosted by Jimmy Kimmel and was a combined in-person and virtual event. Kimmel was live at the Staples Center in downtown Los Angeles, and most presenters and nominees appeared remotely because of the coronavirus pandemic. That format was also used for the recent Golden Globes.
The 2020 Emmys were the lowest rated with 6.4 mil-

lion viewers. As part of the broadcast networks taking turns, CBS last aired the Emmys in 2017, when Stephen Colbert hosted. □

2	8	5	4	6	9	7	3	1
6	4	3	2	1	7	8	9	5
9	7	1	3	8	5	4	6	2
3	9	7	8	5	6	1	2	4
8	2	6	1	4	3	5	7	9
5	1	4	9	7	2	6	8	3
4	6	9	7	2	1	3	5	8
1	5	2	6	3	8	9	4	7
7	3	8	5	9	4	2	1	6

Difficulty Level ★★★

Woods comparisons aside, Morikawa on his own course

By **DOUG FERGUSON**

AP Golf Writer

BRADENTON, Fla. (AP) —

The red shirt for Collin Morikawa to wear on Sunday at the Workday Championship never arrived in time. The comparisons with Tiger Woods keep coming up in other ways.

When Morikawa turned pro in 2019 after graduating from Cal, he began his PGA Tour career by making the cut in 22 consecutive events. That was the longest such streak since Woods began his career making 25 in a row.

Morikawa became a youthful footnote in history at Torrey Pines last year when he was in the same group with Woods. It was the first time Woods had played alongside someone who was born after he turned pro.

Most notable about his three-shot victory at The Concession against another stacked field was the 24-year-old Morikawa joined Woods as the only players to win a major and a World Golf Championship before turning 25.

Some context is in order.

Rory McIlroy was 25 years and three months when he had two majors and a World Golf Championship, and then he won a third major the following week. Jordan Spieth isn't on that list because he hasn't won a World Golf Champion-



Collin Morikawa celebrates after putting on the 18th green to win the Workday Championship golf tournament Sunday, Feb. 28, 2021, in Bradenton, Fla.

ship, though capturing three legs of the career Grand Slam before turning 24 is not something he would trade for that.

Each year, the pool of young talent keeps getting deeper.

Morikawa didn't wade into the pool. It was a cannon ball. In his fourth event, he lost out to an eagle on the final hole in Minnesota to Matt Wolff. Two events later, he won the Barracuda Championship with a cool precision in the final holes that quickly is becoming his trademark.

He won at Muirfield Village last summer by making a

25-foot birdie putt in a play-off right after Justin Thomas had holed a putt from twice that long. He won the PGA Championship at Harding Park by changing his plan as the situation warranted, hitting driver on the reachable par-4 16th to 7 feet for eagle.

That's four PGA Tour victories in his first 39 starts as a pro. The only better start since 1990 was Woods, who had seven victories (including a 12-shot victory in the Masters) in the same span. No one should suggest Morikawa is on the same trajectory as Woods. It's way too early for that, and

Morikawa doesn't have nearly the same skill set, starting with power.

Even so, he has done enough — and looks good doing it — to warrant a prominent spot in any conversation about golf's leading stars.

"I've said for a year or plus now, he's the one that everyone's got to look out for," Billy Horschel said after his runner-up finish to Morikawa. "Yeah, he doesn't hit it 320-plus. I can't say it's overrated — it's helpful out here — but if you can't hit straight and put it in the fairway, then it doesn't give you any advantage."

Morikawa hits it straight. He didn't miss a fairway in the final round after the opening hole, and that made it tough for anyone to catch him on the back nine.

Most telling was his thought process down the stretch at Concession. The biggest putt was a 12-footer for par on No. 11 and an 8-foot birdie putt on the short par-4 12th as a cast of contenders were closing in. He had two par 5s ahead of him. But with his lead back at three and no one making a move, he applied pressure by not making mistakes.

He didn't have a red shirt, like a dozen other players Sunday, to show support for Woods as he recovers from serious leg injuries suffered in his Los Angeles-area car crash. Morikawa honored his golfing idol by playing like he would in that situation. McIlroy has never played with Morikawa on the PGA Tour, though he has seen enough because McIlroy pays attention to everyone, and he has been around him during Taylor-Made commercial shoots.

"He makes a really good move at it; clubface stays so stable through impact," McIlroy said. "It's sort of hard to think that he could hit a ball offline. Great iron player. And I think the thing with Collin is when he gets the putter going, he's always going to have a chance." □

Associated Press

Federer out of Miami Open; will train to 'work his way back'

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**

AP Tennis Writer

Roger Federer is withdrawing from this month's Miami Open so he can spend extra time preparing to "work his way back out on tour," his agent told The Associated Press on Monday.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion has not competed in more than a year after having two operations on his right knee during last season.

Federer, who turns 40 in August, is scheduled to

make his return to the tour next week in a hard-court tournament at Doha, Qatar. He posted a photo of himself on Twitter last Friday with the caption: "The countdown to Doha begins."

That will be his first event since he reached the semifinals at the Australian Open in February 2020.

Federer also had been on the entry list for the Masters 1000 stop in Miami, where play starts on March 24.

But his agent, Tony Godsick, wrote Monday in an

email to the AP that Federer will not play there.

"After Doha and maybe Dubai, (Federer) will go back and do a training block to continue to slowly work his way back out on tour," Godsick wrote.

Miami Open tournament director James Blake did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Federer beat John Isner 6-1, 6-4 in the final to win the Miami Open in 2019, the last time it was held. The tournament was one of dozens that were called



In this Jan. 30, 2020, file photo, Switzerland's Roger Federer speaks during a press conference following his semifinal loss to Serbia's Novak Djokovic at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia.

Associated Press

off last year when the professional tennis tours went on hiatus for several months because of the coronavirus pandemic.

That was Federer's fourth title at the hard-court event, following trophies he collected there in 2005, 2006 and 2017. □

A feel-good start to a feel-good baseball season



A Chicago Cubs fan watches during the third inning of a spring training baseball game against the San Diego Padres, Monday, March 1, 2021, in Peoria, Ariz.

Associated Press

By TIM DAHLBERG
AP Sports Columnist

Trey Mancini stepped up to the plate for the first time since discovering a cancer that could have killed him. Tommy Pham got a couple of at-bats in after a stabbing that nearly did kill him. Feel-good stories weren't hard to find as major league spring training games opened in Arizona and Florida. Mancini's comeback after a year off to treat his colon cancer left some of us on the verge of tears, while Pham's return to the Padres' lineup after being stabbed outside a strip club was reason for a smile.

And, as always, more players were feeling better about their bank accounts, including third baseman

Hunter Dozier, who agreed to a \$25 million, four-year contract with the Royals just as the exhibition games began.

The best feeling of all? That would be looking into the stands in both states and seeing fans there to watch the games.

Actual fans, to be clear, not the cardboard variety that were cute to begin with but now thankfully need to find new homes in closets across the country. There weren't a ton of fans because of coronavirus restrictions, but there were enough to make a difference and give us hope that this year will be very different from the last.

"I hit a ground ball but just hearing the fans kind of spark up," Yankees slugger

Aaron Judge said. "You hear that instant crowd reaction. Kind of had little butterflies getting back to your first at-bat."

That was pretty much the reaction from players around both the Cactus and Grapefruit leagues. They were not only happy to be playing again, but thrilled by the return of fans to the spring training ballparks.

Turns out crowds matter in sports, even if it took a pandemic for players to fully appreciate them.

"We made reference to it a couple times, how nice is it having people in the stands," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. "I saw a highlight before we walked out of BP. A kid chasing a ball going over the fence

and those kind of things. It's been too long."

Way too long, even though last year's shortened season ended earlier than usual with the Dodgers breaking a 32-year drought by winning the World Series. There were some fans in attendance in Texas to watch, but for the most part the 2020 season will be remembered for empty seats, cardboard cutouts and fake noise meant to cover up the whole joylessness of it all.

Now there's optimism in the air, not just for sports but for the world as we know it. Every team still has a chance to make the World Series, and every player and fan knows they eventually will be able to get a vaccine shot.

Hope may always spring eternal, but this spring we've got a lot more to hope for.

The role that fans play in spring training this year will surely be more noticed, if not more important. Without them, there's no smell of hot dogs, no cheers and no one rushing to chase a

foul ball. Without them, the grass doesn't seem nearly as green.

By this time next month when the real season starts, there will be even more of them watching. Barring a spike in infection rates, ballparks in all MLB cities will welcome them on opening day, and capacity limits figure to eventually be loosened, if not entirely abandoned.

That means baseball more or less as usual, though it's not time to discard that mask just yet.

Wear one to go catch one of those six- or seven-inning games that will be the norm this spring, assuming you can get a seat. With capacity limits in place, tickets are already at a premium and being resold at inflated prices for fans starved for real baseball.

Wear one to get a glimpse of Pham on a San Diego team that is suddenly loaded with talent. Wear one to see Mancini play on a Baltimore team that will struggle to stay out of the American League East basement.

The 25% capacity crowd on hand in Florida did just that Sunday and got more than just a ragged spring training opener. Mancini hadn't played in the year since finding out he had Stage 3 colon cancer two weeks shy of his 28th birthday, and he got a standing ovation from both dugouts, as well as the crowd, when he went up for his first at-bat.

"It was amazing," Mancini said. "I almost teared up a little bit, I'm not going to lie ... it meant the world to me. It was a really, really cool moment and one of my favorite moments of my baseball career."

A cool moment for everyone, really, which is what made having fans on hand even better. The Orioles' best — and most popular player — singled in his first at-bat in a year, and if he was nearly in tears, so were most of the people in the ballpark.

It was the best kind of start for a season already shaping up to be the best ever. □

